

Introduction

CARBONDALE is today celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of its incorporation as a City. It is but just and proper that an historical souvenir of the city should be issued at this time as a feature of the commemoration exercises, which can be preserved for future reference. In presenting this little volume to the public we have as far as possible described the people and scenes of the earliest days of the town and city. No attempt has been made to reproduce the Carbondale of today. The men who play a prominent part in our affairs and the many fair features that we might descant upon are too well-known to need mention here. We leave that to the historian of fifty years hence.

After much research and trouble we have secured a list of facts and portraits that should prove both interesting and valuable to the present generation and those to come. They have been gathered from many households and in most instances the pictures were the sole remaining likeness of those who are a memory to only our oldest citizens. This collection in one volume will therefore be duly appreciated by all who have a reverence for the sturdy pioneers who opened up the wilderness of northern Lackawanna or in any way helped to bring our city to its present size and importance. Nearly all those of whom cuts appear in the following pages are noted as being first in private or public affairs of their time. They may therefore be classed as "the first people of Carbondale."

Much of the matter contained herein has not until the present appeared in any sketch of the city. It was with sincere regret we learned after commencing our labors that there were no pictures extant of many whose likenesses should appear in these columns.

In preparing this historical souvenir we are indebted to Louis D. Davis, of the LEADER, whose skillful pen enables us to reproduce the old time scenes that passed out of print a half century ago.

Our advertisers have made it possible to lay this little book before the public. They are among our leading and most reliable business men and manufacturing firms. We commend them to all progressive residents of the community.

W.B. Gruber

CARBONDALE, PA., September 2, 1901.